

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /113 W

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P R 241021Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2525

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TU

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REACHED ON BASIS FOR COALITION PROTOCOL

REF: ANKARA 517

1. AFTER HARD BARGAINING THAT TOOK THEM TO THE BRINK OF FAILURE, THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) ANNOUNCED LATE JANUARY 23 THEIR SUCCESS IN FINDING AN AGREED BASIS FOR THEIR COALITION PROTOCOL. AT MIDAFTERNOON THAT DAY, RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT WITH APPARENT PESSIMISM TOLD THE PRESS RATHER CRYPTICALLY THAT "EITHER THIS BUSINESS IS FINISHED, OR THIS BUSINESS IS FINISHED" (A REMARK INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT AGREEMENT HAD TO BE REACHED THAT DAY OR THE COALITION WOULD BREAK DOWN). SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, HE AND NSP CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN PERSONALLY WORKED OUT A SOLUTION. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES TOLD BOTH THE EMBASSY AND AID THAT THE REASONS FOR THE DISAGREEMENT WERE ERBAKAN'S CLAIM TO AN UNUSUALLY STRONG ROLE AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE NSP'S DEMANDS FOR POWER IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE.

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2. THE PARTIES' PROTOCOL IS TO BE DRAFTED IN ITS FINAL FORM

JANUARY 24 AND, IF APPROVED BY BOTH PARTIES' ASSEMBLIES, IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED JANUARY 25. ECEVIT FORECAST TO THE PRESS THAT THE CABINET LIST MIGHT ALSO BE READY THAT DAY.

3. COMMENT: THE NEAR-BREAKDOWN OF THE COALITION ON THE NINETY-NINTH DAY AFTER THE ELECTIONS SUGGESTS OF ITSELF THE SEVERE STRAINS ON THIS UNION - STRAINS THAT COULD RE-EMERGE TO THREATEN ITS FUTURE LIFE. HOWEVER, FOR THE TIME BEING IT MUST BE SAID THAT NO OTHER POTENTIAL PARTY COMBINATION HAS SHOWN EVEN THIS MUCH CAPACITY TO BRIDGE DISAGREEMENTS. PERHAPS, LIKE THE CAMEL-AND-DONKEY TEAMS STILL USED FOR PLOWING IN SOUTHERN TURKEY, THESE TWO UNLIKELY PARTNERS WILL PROVE ABLE TO PULL TOGETHER.
MACOMBER

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